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General Assembly

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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Organization of work: relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly

Note by the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The attention of the Special Committee is drawn to the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, listed in sections II to IV below, which are relevant to the work of the Special Committee in 2001.

II. General resolutions on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

2. The Special Committee was established by the General Assembly pursuant to its resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961. The Special Committee was requested to examine the application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration.

3. By its resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, the General Assembly decided to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, and requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations.

4. At the same session and at each subsequent session, the General Assembly, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[1] adopted a resolution renewing the mandate of the Special Committee.

5. At its thirty-fifth session, the General Assembly, on the basis of a recommendation of the Special Committee, adopted resolution 35/118 of 11 December 1980, the annex to which contains the Plan of Action for the Full

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Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

6. At its forty-third session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988, by which it declared the period 1990-2000 the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

7. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly, in its resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, adopted as a plan of action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism the proposals contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1). The plan stated that the Special Committee, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should:

(a) Prepare periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration;

(b) Review the impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional and political advancement of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(c) Organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.

In addition, the Special Committee was to continue to seek, as a matter of priority, the full cooperation of the administering Powers with regard to the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories and, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, was to make every effort to facilitate and encourage the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional and international organizations, as well as in the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the Special Committee itself and other United Nations decolonization bodies.

8. At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, declaring the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and called upon Member States to redouble their efforts to implement the plan of action, as contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991,[2] updated where necessary, to serve as the plan of action for the Second Decade.

9. At its fifty-fifth session, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[3] the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/147 of 8 December 2000, in which it approved the report of the Special Committee covering its work during 2000, including the programme of work envisaged for 2001,[4] and requested the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out those actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence, and in particular:

(a) To formulate specific proposals to bring about an end to colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session;

(b) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

(c) To continue to pay special attention to the small Territories, including through the dispatch of visiting missions, and to recommend to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence;

(d) To finalize before the end of 2001 a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(e) To take all necessary steps to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

(f) To conduct seminars, as appropriate, for the purpose of receiving and disseminating information on the work of the Special Committee, and to facilitate participation by the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those seminars;

(g) To observe annually the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories.[5]

In addition, the Assembly reaffirmed that the United Nations visiting missions to the Territories were an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, as well as the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants, and called upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to facilitate United Nations visiting missions to the Territories, and also called upon the administering Powers that had not participated formally in the work of the Special Committee to do so at its session in 2001.

10. As at 1 January 2001, the Special Committee was composed of the following 23 members: Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Mali, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania and Venezuela.

III. Resolutions and decisions concerning specific items considered by the Special Committee in 2000

11. In addition to resolutions 55/146 and 55/147, the General Assembly adopted 11 other resolutions and 5 decisions relating to specific items considered by the Special Committee in 2000, which are listed below. Members will wish to take them into account in drawing up the Special Committee's programme of work for 2001.

A. Resolutions and decisions concerning specific Territories

1. Resolutions

Territory	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
Western Sahara	55/141	8 December 2000
New Caledonia	55/142	8 December 2000
Tokelau	55/143	8 December 2000
American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands	55/144 A and B	8 December 2000

2. Decisions

Territory	*Decision number*	*Date of adoption*
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	55/411	20 November 2000
Gibraltar	55/427	8 December 2000

B. Resolutions concerning other items

Title	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations	55/137	8 December 2000
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories	55/138	8 December 2000
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	55/139	8 December 2000
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	55/140	8 December 2000
Dissemination of information on decolonization	55/145	8 December 2000
Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism	55/146	8 December 2000

C. Decisions concerning other questions

Title	*Decision number*	*Date of adoption*
Observance of the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	55/410	14 November 2000
Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration	55/426	8 December 2000
The situation in East Timor during its transition to independence	55/435	19 December 2000

IV. Other resolutions relevant to the work of the Special Committee

12. Other resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session that are relevant to the work of the Special Committee are listed below.

Title	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
Oceans and the law of the sea	55/7	30 October 2000
Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the special session of the General Assembly in this regard	55/46	29 November 2000
Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic	55/49	29 November 2000
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly	55/71	4 December 2000
International Decade of the World's Indigenous People	55/80	4 December 2000
Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the convening of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance	55/84	4 December 2000
Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination	55/85	4 December 2000
Use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination	55/86	4 December 2000
The right to development	55/108	4 December 2000
Questions relating to information	55/136 A and B	8 December 2000
Assistance for humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and development for East Timor	55/172	14 December 2000

Title	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
Convention on Biological Diversity	55/201	20 December 2000
Further implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States	55/202	20 December 2000
Pattern of conferences	55/222	23 December 2000
Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor	55/228	23 December 2000
Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2002-2003	55/233	23 December 2000
Questions relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001	55/238	23 December 2000
Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001	55/239	23 December 2000

Notes

[1] See the reports of the Special Committee submitted to the General Assembly at its eighteenth to fifty-fourth sessions. For the most recent, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/52/23); ibid., *Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/53/23); ibid., *Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/54/23), and A/55/23.

[2] A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1.

[3] A/55/23 (Parts I-III) (to be issued in final form as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/55/23).

[4] Ibid., Part I, chap. I, sect. J.

[5] General Assembly resolution 2911 (XXVII).

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Organization of work

Note by the Chairman

1. Subsidiary bodies

1. During its previous sessions, the Special Committee conducted its work by considering the items directly at its plenary meetings. Since 1997, the meetings of the Bureau have been open to all the members of the Special Committee. The Special Committee has increasingly relied upon informal consultations, thus striving to keep the number of its formal meetings to a minimum.

2. The Chairman recommends to the Special Committee that it continue to use informal meetings to the maximum extent possible. In the meantime, the Chairman may wish to discuss urgent as well as specific issues with the Bureau.

2. Allocation of items and procedure for consideration

3. Annexed to the present note is a list of pending matters for consideration by the Special Committee during the year. It includes decisions adopted by the Special Committee, together with an indication of the procedure that the Committee may wish to adopt for each item. In this regard, the Chairman would like to draw the attention of the Special Committee, in particular, to paragraph 8 (d) of General Assembly resolution 55/147 of 8 December 2000, in which the Special Committee was requested to finalize before the end of 2001 a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories.

4. The Special Committee should take into account the resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session that are relevant to the work of the Committee, as listed in the note by the Secretary-General (A/AC.109/2001/L.1). It is also understood that the Special Committee should continue to be guided by the relevant provisions of the resolution adopted by the Assembly on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration (resolution 45/33), as well as the plan of action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, adopted by the Assembly in its resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991 on the basis of proposals contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General on the Decade.[1] The plan, updated where necessary, would continue to serve as the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism for the period 2001-2010, declared by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000.

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3. Order of priority for consideration of items

5. The Chairman will hold consultations with regard to the order of priority to be given for consideration of items in plenary meetings.

6. It is also his intention to hold consultations on specific activities envisaged under the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

7. In the meantime, subject to the availability of the working papers prepared by the Secretariat, it is suggested that the Special Committee conduct its substantive work in accordance with the schedule of meetings approved by the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session.[2]

4. Recommendations of the Special Committee to the General Assembly

8. In accordance with paragraph 31 of General Assembly decision 34/401 of 29 November 1979 and in the light of past experience and established practice, it is suggested that the Special Committee continue to follow the procedure adopted at its 1982 session[3] authorizing its Rapporteur to reformulate its decisions into draft decisions in General Assembly form and to submit them to the Assembly at its fifty-sixth session. The Special Committee may also wish to recommend that its Rapporteur continue to follow the format of its report to the General Assembly adopted at the 2000 session of the Special Committee.

5. Utilization of conference-servicing resources

9. At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly decided to waive rules 67 and 108 of its rules of procedure in order to permit meetings to be declared open and debates to proceed without the presence of the quorum required under those rules. The Assembly also decided that morning meetings should begin at 10.

10. As those measures have further enhanced the effective utilization of conference-servicing resources, it is suggested that the Special Committee continue to follow the same procedure. It should be understood that, in accordance with the rules cited, the presence of a majority of the members would continue to be required for any decisions to be taken.

Notes

[1] A/46/634/Rev.1.

[2] A/55/23 (Part I), chap. I, para. 50.

[3] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/37/23/Rev.1), chap. I, paras. 60-69.

Annex

Pending matters for consideration by the Special Committee during 2001

Question	*Procedure for consideration*
Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories (General Assembly resolution 2911 (XXVII), decision 37/421 and resolution 54/91)	As appropriate
Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (General Assembly resolution 46/181 and report of the Secretary-General (A/46/634/Rev.1, annex; resolution 55/146))	"
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations and related questions (General Assembly resolution 55/137)	As a separate item
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (General Assembly resolution 55/138)	"
Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration (General Assembly decision 55/426)	"
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 55/139)	"
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (General Assembly resolution 55/140)	"
Western Sahara (General Assembly resolution 55/141)	"
New Caledonia (General Assembly resolution 55/142)	"
East Timor	"
Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (General Assembly decision 55/411)	"
Gibraltar (General Assembly decision 55/427)	"
Tokelau (General Assembly resolution 55/143)	"
American Samoa (General Assembly resolution 55/144 A and B)	"
Anguilla (General Assembly resolution 55/144 A and B)	"
Bermuda (General Assembly resolution 55/144 A and B)	"

Question	*Procedure for consideration*
British Virgin Islands (General Assembly resolution 55/144 A and B)	"
Cayman Islands (General Assembly resolution 55/144 A and B)	"
Guam (General Assembly resolution 55/144 A and B)	"
Montserrat (General Assembly resolution 55/144 A and B)	"
Pitcairn (General Assembly resolution 55/144 A and B)	"
St. Helena (General Assembly resolution 55/144 A and B)	"
Turks and Caicos Islands (General Assembly resolution 55/144 A and B)	"
United States Virgin Islands (General Assembly resolution 55/144 A and B)	"
Question of sending visiting missions to Territories (General Assembly resolution 55/147, paras. 8 (c) and 14)	As a separate item
Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other relevant resolutions on decolonization (General Assembly resolution 55/147, para. 8 (b))	To be taken into consideration in the examination of specific Territories
Matters relating to the small Territories (General Assembly resolution 55/147, para. 8 (c))	"
Dissemination of information on decolonization (General Assembly resolution 55/145)	As appropriate
Special Committee decision of 12 July 2000 concerning Puerto Rico (A/55/23 (Part I), chap. I, para. 39)	"
Pattern of conferences (General Assembly resolution 55/222)	"
Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters (A/AC.109/2000/L.15, paras. 2 and 3)	"
Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable (A/AC.109/2000/L.15, para. 10)	"
International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (article 15 of the Convention)	"

Tentative programme of work and timetable of the Special Committee

Wednesday, 21 February (1 meeting)	Organization of work
March-April (3 meetings)	Organization of the forthcoming Caribbean Regional Seminar
Friday, 25 May (1 meeting)	Observance of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories
Monday-Wednesday, 18-20 June (3 meetings)	Question of Gibraltar
	Dissemination of information on decolonization
	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations
	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories
Thursday and Friday, 21 and 22 June (3 meetings)	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations
	Report of the Caribbean Regional Seminar
	Question of Western Sahara
Thursday and Friday, 28 and 29 June (4 meetings)	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)
	Question of New Caledonia
	Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands
Monday and Tuesday, 2 and 3 July (4 meetings)	Special Committee decision of 12 July 2000 concerning Puerto Rico: hearing of petitioners
Thursday, 5 July (2 meetings)	Economic and other activities which affect the interests of peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories
	Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration
	Report of the Special Committee: adoption of recommendations